

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 303

H.P. 216

House of Representatives, February 3, 2021

An Act To Establish Semi-open Primary Elections To Allow Unenrolled Voters To Participate

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative: BAILEY of Gorham, Senators: MOORE of Washington,
POULIOT of Kennebec.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §111, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 387, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **5. Enrollment.** The person must be enrolled in a party in that municipality to vote at
5 that party's caucus, or convention ~~or primary election, unless otherwise permitted by the~~
6 ~~party pursuant to section 340.~~

7 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §340**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 423, §3, is repealed.

8 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §341** is enacted to read:

9 **§341. Unenrolled voter participation in primary elections allowed**

10 A registered voter not enrolled in a political party may participate, subject to the
11 restrictions of section 144, in a party's primary election without enrolling in that political
12 party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary election. The Secretary
13 of State shall establish procedures to ensure that each voter voting in a party's primary
14 election is offered a ballot for that primary election.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill allows an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary election without having to
17 enroll in a political party. An unenrolled voter may vote in only one party's primary
18 election.